REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending. Claim 1 is amended, and is supported by the specification as originally filed, particularly on page 5, lines 25-29, on page 6, lines 6-28 and on page 7, lines 7-30. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for consideration and acknowledgement of Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement, and Acknowledgement of receipt of the priority document.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chen et al. (US 2002/0169893), hereinafter "Chen." Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Kuzma (US Patent 5,771,355). Applicants traverse each of the rejections for at least the following reasons.

Chen discloses a system and a method for synchronizing computer data such that work can be conducted from a remote location (paragraph [0025]).

Paragraph [0026] of Chen discloses that the computer data synchronization of Chen includes databases, servers, and a synch application adapted to communicate with a plurality of reception devices via a local area network and a wide area network (such as the internet).

Paragraph [0028] of Chen discloses that, once a synchronization session is formed, the synch application provides users communication via the plurality of reception devices, with predefined original computer data from a database. Because the original computer data may be too large to be displayed on the plurality of reception devices at one time, the synch application receives synchronization data from a controlling one of the plurality of reception devices (hereafter referred to as the controlling reception device). These synchronization data enable the synch application to provide a portion of the original computer data to the plurality of reception devices, such that each reception device displays substantially the same portion of the original computer data. If the controlling reception device scrolls down to view a new portion of the original computer data, then the synch application responds accordingly by enabling each reception device to display the same new portion of the original computer data. By using such synchronization means, a plurality of remote users can view synchronized original computer data on a plurality of reception devices as if they

were viewing original computer data on a single reception device during an in-person meeting.

Paragraph [0038] of Chen discloses that the synch application may further provide the plurality of reception devices with a synch button. By interacting with the synch button, any one of the plurality of reception devices can become the controlling reception device and, thus, provide synchronization data and annotated data (according to paragraph [0029]) to the synch application. This allows each reception device to participate in the synchronization session in an orderly fashion.

Paragraph [0040], last sentence, of Chen discloses means for synchronizing all forms of data to simulate (and replay) in-person meetings between users thousands of miles apart.

Paragraph [0045], last sentence, of Chen discloses that, by using the computer data synchronization system, a plurality of users can participate in an in-person meeting regardless of the distance between the plurality of users.

Paragraph [0047] of Chen discloses that entities can communicate over great distances in a similar manner as if they were in an in-person meeting. In fact, means disclosed in Chen enable, in reference to paragraph [0009], a synchronized communication between a plurality of reception devices located in different locations such that a plurality of users operating these reception devices can simulate an in-person meeting by simultaneously viewing original computer data and corresponding annotated data.

Chen does not disclose or suggest a method for archiving the contents of multimedia messages for an undetermined period in a storage means in a server, as set forth in Applicants' claim 1. On the contrary, as stated above, Chen discloses means to simultaneously (paragraph [0009]) view data between interacting devices (paragraph [0045]). There is no disclosure, teaching, or suggestion to preserve the data being simultaneously viewed in Chen in a separate server for later retrieval.

In contract, the claimed invention enables the storage of a multimedia message for an undetermined period, i.e., without depending on a preset period at the end of which the multimedia message is destroyed. Thus, the storage means of the invention enables the saving or archiving of data (i.e., the content) of one or more multimedia messages up to the moment when the recipient consults the multimedia message(s) on

her/his terminal (reference in the present application: page 6, lines 13-20). The method of claim 1 of the present application thus enables long-lasting savings of the contents of multimedia messages involving a supplementary dedicated archival storage means (means 21), while Chen provides only means to synchronize communication of data between devices in an interactive manner.

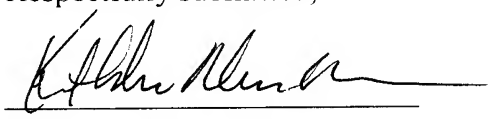
Chen discloses, in paragraph [0036] and [0037], that annotated data are stored in a database to be retrieved and viewed at a later time. However, Chen does not recognize and therefore does not address the problem of temporary archiving of data in a server, after which automatic destruction of said data occurs to free the storage capacity of the server.

Kuzma does not overcome the deficiencies of Chen. In Kuzma, which discloses means for transmitting e-mail over a network, there is no teaching, disclosure, or suggestion to archive the content of multimedia messages in a means (a storage means) included in the network for an undetermined period, i.e., without depending on a preset period at the end of which multimedia messages are destroyed.

For at least the above reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of all claims 1-13 are respectfully requested.

All of claims 1-13 being in condition for allowance for at least the above reasons, reconsideration and prompt action in the form of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner require anything further, or have any questions, the Examiner is asked to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.